Infiltration of Armed Militants by Pakistan

5132. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan are still involved in the infiltration of armed militants;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact taht there is no decline in the Infiltration especially in the Poonch Sector; and

(c) the action taken towards cracking down on terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Adequate military measures and diplomatic initiatives have been taken to address cross-border terrorism perpetrated by Pakistan ISI in Jammu & Kashmir. The strategies and tactics used by the Unified Headquarters in cooperation with the State Government, to effectively counter infiltration and deal with terrorists are constantly reviewed and monitored. It has resulted in killing of 570 terrorist during the current year (January 1st to May 8th 2002).

CAG's Report on purchase of special purpose Helicopter

5133. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has stated in its latest report that copters and spares appeared to be exorbitant and the radar technology was 18 years old on the purchase of special purpose helicopter worth about Rs. 1000 crores; and

(b) if so, details of action taken/to be taken based on the above report?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his Report No. 8 of 2002 (Air Force and Navy), has pointed out certain shortcomings in the acquisition of nine special purpose helicopters with associated equipments and spares for Indian Navy at a total cost of 200.80 million US Dollars.

As per prescribed procedure an 'Action Taken Note' (ATN) conveying the Government's response to the audit observations is being prepared to be sent to the C&AG.

National Disaster Management Agency

5134. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a National Disaster Management Agency to deal with biological threats like anthrax, cholera, plague etc.;

(b) whether the Agency is prepared to face such an attack and has adequate infrastructure to deal with the situation;

(c) whether Government proposes to set up a separate department to protest the country from such unconventional attacks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) In the context of the development security situation, the need to have a strong and robust mechanism for management of all types of disasters, including biological, radiological and chemicals disasters, backed up by a professional pool of manpower, has been felt by the Government. As proposals regarding the requisite structures and capabilities are presently in the formative stages only, it is too early to furnish any further details.